



News Release ~ Communiqué

Round Table begins work to shape future of Banff's Bow Valley

BANFF, February 11, 1995 At the inaugural meeting of the Banff Bow Valley Study Round Table, Canadian Heritage Minister Michel Dupuy asked participants to represent not only the interests of the people who live and work in the Bow Valley in Banff National Park, but all Canadians.

"This Round Table approach is a unique opportunity for people from all facets of the community and beyond to share in the development of a vision for this special valley," said Minister Dupuy. "I am confident that this collaborative effort is the most effective way to find solutions to long standing issues and to pave the way for working relationships that will serve us well long after the Task Force has completed its work."

The Banff Bow Valley Study, initiated by Minister Dupuy, is a comprehensive analysis of the Bow River watershed within Banff National Park. The study focuses on environmental, economic, cultural and social issues within the watershed and will provide a baseline for understanding the implications of existing and future human development on the natural and cultural resources of Banff National Park.

The study is being directed by an independent panel. The Banff Bow Valley Task Force, chaired by Dr. Robert Page, the Dean of the Faculty of Environmental Design at the University of Calgary, has adopted the concept of a Round Table to ensure the active participation by a broad representation of all sectors of the public in the development of the study.

"The Round Table will work on developing a common vision, principles and goals for the Banff Bow Valley," said Dr. Page. "This key group will also work to identify and assess important issues and find innovative and practical solutions to these issues. Recommendations from the Round Table will provide an important basis for our final report to the Minister," he added.

Minister Dupuy told Round Table participants that "your work is vital to the future of this special place. Helping to chart the direction for the heart of Banff National Park, Canada's first National Park and a part of the Rocky Mountain World Heritage Site is an important responsibility as well as an honour. I deeply appreciate the skill, talent, vision and commitment you bring to this challenge."

"I want you to know that I wholeheartedly support these Round Table discussions and look forward to your recommendations. I hope that the focus will be not on the differences, but on the common ground you share in your vision of the issues and your pride in the valley," said Minister Dupuy.

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